

Appl. No. 09/822,735  
Amdt. Dated November 12, 2004  
Reply to Office action of August 13, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (original) An apparatus comprising:  
an encoder to encode data having a first format into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different;  
a packetizer coupled to the encoder to packetize the string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format; and  
a decoder coupled to the packetizer to decode the at least one packet back into the data having the first format.
2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the decoder comprises a detector to detect the second format and a converter to convert the string of data back into the data having the first format.
3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least one packet is transmitted to a network supporting the second format.
4. (original) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the network comprises an instant messaging (IM) infrastructure.
5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second format is an American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) format.
6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data having the first format is ink input data.
7. (original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the ink input data is obtained from is one of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

Appl. No. 09/822,735  
Amdt. Dated November 12, 2004  
Reply to Office action of August 13, 2004

8. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:  
an encoder to encode data having a first format into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different; and  
a packetizer coupled to the encoder to packetize the string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format, the at least one packet being transmitted to a network, the network transmitting the packet to a decoder.
9. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the decoder comprises a detector to detect the second format.
10. (original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the decoder decodes the string of data back into the data having the first format.
11. (original) A method comprising:  
encoding data having a first format into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different;  
packetizing the string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format; and  
decoding the at least one packet back into the data having the first format.
12. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the decoding comprises detecting the second format and converting the string of data into the data having the first format.
13. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one packet is transmitted to a network supporting the second format.
14. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the network comprises an instant messaging (IM) infrastructure.

Appl. No. 09/822,735  
Amdt. Dated November 12, 2004  
Reply to Office action of August 13, 2004

15. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the second format is an American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) format.

16. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the data having the first format is ink input data.

17. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the ink input data is obtained from is one of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

18. (previously presented) A method comprising:  
encoding data having a first format into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different; and  
packetizing string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format, the at least one packet being transmitted to a network, the network transmitting the packet to a decoder.

19. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein decoding comprises detecting the second format.

20. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein decoding comprises decoding the string of data back into the data having the first format.

21. (original) A computer program product comprising:  
a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied therein, the computer program product having:  
computer readable program code for encoding data having a first format into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different;  
computer readable program code for packetizing the string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format; and

Appl. No. 09/822,735  
Amdt. Dated November 12, 2004  
Reply to Office action of August 13, 2004

computer readable program code for decoding the at least one packet back into the data having the first format.

22. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the computer readable program code for decoding comprises computer readable program code for detecting the second format and converting the string of data into the data having the first format.

23. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the at least one packet is transmitted to a network supporting the second format.

24. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein the network comprises an instant messaging (IM) infrastructure.

25. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the second format is an American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) format.

26. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the data having the first format is an ink-input data.

27. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the ink input data is obtained from is one of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

28. (original) A computer program product comprising:  
a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied therein, the computer program product having:

computer readable program code for encoding data having a first format into a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different; and

computer readable program code for packetizing string of data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format, the at least one

Appl. No. 09/822,735  
Amdt. Dated November 12, 2004  
Reply to Office action of August 13, 2004

packet being transmitted to a network, the network transmitting the packet to a decoder.

29. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 28 wherein computer readable program code for decoding comprises computer readable program code for detecting the second format.

30. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 29 wherein computer readable program code for decoding comprises computer readable program code for decoding the string of data back into the data having the first format.